

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00871 071010Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 /016 W

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R 070818Z MAY 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3708

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 871

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL CH

SUBJECT: TRACK AND FIELD TEAM - TV COVERAGE

REF: STATE 105954

1. IF WE READ DEPARTMENT'S CABLES CORRECTLY, IT APPEARS THAT AAU AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO SECURE CHINESE ACCEPTANCE FOR A TELEVISION CREW TO COVER PORTIONS OF THE TRACK AND FIELD TEAM VISIT AND HAVE BEEN UNAMBIGUOUSLY TURNED DOWN. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD SERVE ANY PURPOSE TO GET TURNED DOWN ONCE AGAIN BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. THE CHINESE ARE PROBABLY CONCERNED ABOUT DIFFICULTY OF CONTROLLING LARGE TELEVISION CREW IN PRC (THEY WILL INEVITABLY WANT TO TAKE SIDE EXCURSIONS), PROBLEM OF CENSORING VIDEOTAPE TO ENSURE CHINA SHOWN IN GOOD LIGHT, AND PRINCIPLE THAT OVERALL SIZE OF DELEGATION HAS BEEN SET. THEY ARE NOT CONCERNED WITH OUR FINANCING PROBLEMS AND ARE PROBABLY UNIMPRESSED WITH US NETWORK DEMAND FOR LARGE CREWS WHEN MINIMAL CREW SUFFICED FOR LAST KISSINGER VISIT.

3. SINCE TIMELINESS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN PROVIDING FILM COVERAGE OF EVENTS, WE ARE STILL WONDERING WHETHER NETWORKS MIGHT SETTLE FOR MOTION PICTURE COVERAGE BY ONE OR TWO CAMERAMEN

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TO WHICH SOUND COULD LATER BE ADDED. U.S. SWIMMING

TEAM IN 1973 PRODUCED DOCUMENTARY IN THIS FASHION,
AND IT SEEMED TO WORK QUITE WELL. BUSH

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Message Attributes

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